



Newsletter

Spring 2006

Medical Reserve Corps

Region II

(NY, NJ, PR VI)

MRC Members from across the country participate in the National Conference

During the week of April 18-21st the members of the MRC units from across the country converged on Dallas Texas to attend the National MRC Conference. The purpose of the conference was to provide training and information to local site coordinators and their site volunteers about operating and providing assistance in their local community. Region II was well attended with many of the members in attendance.

The Conference Complex, Dallas Texas





(Registration desk manned by the Program office staff)



(Program Staff show off their new “head” phones)

The program agenda included both large group sessions for the full audience as well as smaller break-out sessions where interested members got a chance to do some focused discussions. The following is a listing of some of the small group discussion areas that were based on the type of unit organization.

- **Health department and Board of Health based units**
- **Emergency management Based units**
- **Hospital Based units**
- **University based units**
- **Non-profit Based or faith based units**
- **New unit based organizations**
- **Urban based units**
- **Rural based units Public health Initiative focus**
- **Medical Surge/Mass distribution Focus**

Participants were especially pleased to have an opportunity to speak with others who has similar composition. It was a time for exchange of ideas and learning new methods of operation.



(Region II discussion group)



(Region II Discussion group)

An Evening with The Surgeon General, Richard Carmona.

One of the high lights of this year's conference was an opportunity to meet the Surgeon general and have a picture taken with him. Each state has a separate picture taken and members received a personal copy to take home with tem. Below find copies of our regional pictures with the Surgeon General.



(NJ State Conference attendees)



(NY State Conference attendees)



(PR/VI Conference attendees)

Time for show & Tell

There were a variety of poster session displays that highlighted what unite were wearing, doing and offering their volunteers. These sessions were interesting and informative.



(Dave Richardson of Manalapan eyes the clothing line)



(Ester and Diane talk with Kim about the food)

Region II members had time to meet together at the conference

Time was scheduled for the members of each Region to meet together and discuss their specific concerns. Region II members reviewed the past years events and discussed the October '05 conference for volunteer training. There was a strong feeling that the next conference should focus on training for new and continuing site coordinators. (We are currently into the process of planning this event for fall -06.)

The National Office announces the “TRAIN” Program

Announced at the Conference by CMD Rob Tosatto, was the new “TRAIN” program which will bring MRC members training via web casts. The members can obtain specific training and receive continuing education credits (CEU’s) to be used in fulfillment of their licensing requirements. Most information will follow in several weeks.



(Announcing the MRC TRAIN program)

Updating Your Unit Profile on the MRC Website

It is very important that each MRC unit keeps their unit profiles current on the National website. As a registered MRC site coordinator, you have permission to change the information your unit places on the website. You may change or update your unit information as often as you like. The National office requests that you update your information at least once every three months. It is important that you update your unit's profile on a regular basis. Your profile is one of the first places a potential volunteer will check to find information about joining your unit. If your profile does not contain any information or it contains old information, the individual may lose interest in becoming part of your unit and you may have lost the services of a potential volunteer. In addition, current unit contact information is very important during an emergency, when local officials or the MRC national office may need to contact you quickly. (If you have any technical issues you can contact the web master at (MRCwebmaster@z-techcorp.com)). For other types of assistance you can contact the National Program Office at (301) 443-4951).



(Cpt. Robert Davidson, Region II Health Administrator conferences
With Cpt. Mike Milner, Region 1 & V RHA)

(Some local color from the Hotel's hall of pictures)

